

# ***THE TIM WISE "ANTI-RACIST" MONEY MACHINE***

**Q: How much money does Tim Wise make?**

**A: Through speaking engagements alone, Tim Wise earns \$200,000 to \$300,000 a year.** He does this with a very cushy schedule — working less than 10 days a month, and taking summers off. So far this year (Jan. to Mar. 2015), Tim has netted \$120,000+. He makes more money in 6 days, then the average black family makes in a year. Obviously, this is an outrageous example of income inequality and white privilege.

## **Details**

For an event, Tim Wise flies into a university town, and stays at a hotel for one night. The next day, he makes a few one hour speeches, then flies home. For this work, he receives an honorarium (i.e., a big fat check, ka-ching) for \$7,500. His flight and hotel expenses are paid by the university. His booking agency Speakout Now (<http://www.speakoutnow.org>), apparently takes a 25% cut, so Tim Wise receives \$5625 (75% of \$7,500) for each event.

## **Evidence**

Many sources of evidence substantiate theses facts.

**Exhibit A)** Uhuru News was quoted the \$7,500 + expenses figure by Speakout Now:

Disturbed by Wise's failure to comment on slavery or colonialism, Comrade Wendy posted a comment on the public Facebook profile of Tim Wise in which she called for him to go beyond simply criticizing racism, which has proven to be a lucrative career for Wise who, according to his booking agent, charges \$7,500 plus expenses.

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**uhurusandiego** · a year ago

I appreciate this article. Tim Wise called me names on facebook for not asking him questions during his presentation but I had to leave early, ironically to present on "White Solidarity or White Opportunism"...I was really struck by how he took my criticism so personally, but that is the problem with being an antiracist; everything keeps white people at the center. Instead of an objective response, Mr. Wise made a personal attack on me with all sorts of false information. I also found it interesting that he kept denying that his standard fee is \$7500 plus expenses, because I have the email right here from the founder of his speakers bureau, Speakout, stating that this is his fee. And when he says he donates 25% to grass roots organizations, I wonder if this is the 25% fee he incurs for having this organization book his engagements?

3 ^ | v · Share ›

<http://bit.ly/1GCCNHY>

**Exhibit B)** Budget documents from the University of Michigan, accessed online, substantiate the report from Uhuru News:

An Evening with Tim Wise: Budget

Item	Description	Quantity	Cost
Honorarium	Honorarium determined by SpeakOut's contract	1	<u>\$7500</u>
Hotel Booking	Hotel accommodation for speaker as prescribed in booking contract	1 night	\$148
Airplane Ticket	Multi-city ticket	1	\$609.77
League ballroom rental	Event location		Free
Food for reception	covered by Center for Campus Involvement		\$1000
Advertising print costs	Covered by Center for Campus Involvement		Covered by CCI
Total Cost			9257.77

<http://bit.ly/1BgxIQM>

**Exhibit C)** Minutes for Oct. 24, 2012 of the Ripon College Student Senate record a debate over Tim Wise's exorbitant speaking fee. Ripon College is a very small institution, but notice that Tim Wise's agent won't budge an inch on the \$7,500 fee.

- ix. Senator Riebe: I just have some questions from the concerns of some of my constituents about the cost. Was any negotiating done to maybe bring the price down, or is there any way to get the cost of this down for the students here?
- x. Actually that has been his set price honorarium, he hasn't finagled up or down. But he actually opted to go into the classrooms that day and actually talk with students and faculty are willing to have him in the classroom and would like to put him on the syllabus for the day.
- xi. Senator Riebe: But you guys didn't negotiate his price down at all?
- xii. Of course I asked. But of course they told me no, it's 7500 for his honorarium.
- xiii. Senator Riebe: So that is what is going to have to be at?
- xiv. Yes.
- xv. Senator Van Der Leest: I would just like all of you guys to know all of my people said yes and for anyone who has talked to me about my constituents, they don't like to spend money, so this is a really big thing. Which means it is important to them.
- xvi. Senator Miller: I would just like to point out that in years past, the speaker came for 5000 in 2009, came for 2000 in 2010, came 5000 for last year, it got moved up to 7500 because of Herman Boone, who actually brought the wow factor onto campus. I don't believe that Tim Wise brings the wow factor onto campus and that is why I move to amend the one-fund to \$5,520.
  - 1. Senator McNeil: Move to second the motion.
  - 2. Friendly: No.
- xvii. Senator Erdman: That is probably one of the worst amendments I have ever seen on a one fund, in the few years I have been in senate. They have told us there is negotiation in terms of getting, there is no other outlets for them to get the money. This is a really good week and I would hate to be the only senate to end MLK week, so I think we really need to keep the one-fund as it stands.
- xviii. Senator Miller: I wasn't even trying to end MLK week at all. I was just saying that Tim Wise is not worth 7500 dollars. I was moving the one-fund to signal that the speaker would come in for 5000. So if they can't get Tim Wise for 5000, then we get a different speaker in that they could bring in for 5000, thereby not ending MLK week but bringing in someone who can fit our budget.
- xix. Senator Riebe: I'm not necessarily leaning one way or another on this amendment but I'm in a position right now where some of my constituents said I can't approve anything tonight on their behalf that is more than 5000 dollars, that is just where I stand, that is just what the feedback I've gotten. Yes MLK week is a great week and it's great to have it but we are just at a point right now where the cost too much for what's being proposed and for who is being proposed, where my constituents have expressly said, and this is multiple people, not even talking to each other, said 5000 dollars, try to get it down to that much. So that is where I am right now and I am guessing Senator Miller is in a similar situation if that is the number he is looking at here.

<http://bit.ly/1MA0TEW>

**Exhibit D)** Diversity Committee Meeting Minutes from Rockhurst University (Mar. 14, 2011) describe the "high cost of diversity speakers" and

cite \$10,000 as the cost of a Tim Wise event.

2. He shared his desires to bring in speakers who can address diversity-related topics, and his plan to save funds from this year to fund a diversity speaker for next year (Beverly Tatum or Melissa Harris Perry).
3. He shared with us the high cost of diversity speakers:
  - a. Beverly Tatum - \$10,000
  - b. Tim Wise - \$10,000
  - c. Melissa Harris Perry - \$10,000
4. Committee members proposed possibilities of partnerships with nearby institutions hosting diversity-related speakers. (Craig said that generally fees are still the same for two separate talks.)

<http://bit.ly/1EK81zf>

**Exhibit E)** Budget documents from Radford University show funding requests for \$8,000 to pay for a Tim Wise event:

<http://bit.ly/1CfpUEb>

## Tim Wise's Outrageous Income

The following is screen capture of Tim's schedule for 2015, obtained from Speakout Now. As noted above, Tim is a gouger, and does not give discounts to small colleges with limited means. As can be seen from the schedule, Tim had 21 college engagements in the first three months of 2015. Total haul: 21 events x \$5625 per event = \$118,125. Bottom line, Tim Wise makes more money in 6 days, then the average black family makes in a year. Tim Wise's cash machine has few tangible benefits for black people, but huge benefits for Tim Wise. He is using black people as a tool to enrich himself.

### **Tim Wise**

One of the Country's Leading Anti-Racist Writers and Activists



01/5/15: Frankfort, KY Kentucky State University

01/15/15: San Antonio, TX Trinity University

01/16/15: Hitchcock, TX Greater St. Matthews Baptist Church

01/18/15: Hartford, CT The Scribe's Institute Learning and Literacy Gala

01/22/15: Farmville, VA Longwood University

01/26/15: Providence, RI Rhode Island School of Design

01/27/15 - 01/28/15: Santa Monica, CA Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences

01/29/15 - 01/30/15: Portland, OR Portland Community College

02/2/15: Cedar Falls, IA University of Northern Iowa

02/3/15: Dubuque, IA University of Dubuque

02/3/15: Waterloo, IA Hawkeye Community College

02/5/15: Valparaiso, IN Valparaiso University

02/10/15: Rochester, NY Monroe Community College

02/11/15: Washington, DC Georgetown University

02/12/15: Keyser, WV Potomac State College of West Virginia University

02/17/15: Beverly, MA Endicott College

02/19/15: Fort Lauderdale, FL Fort Lauderdale Community Center

02/23/15: Kirkland, WA Lake Washington Technical College

02/24/15: Cheney, WA Eastern Washington University

02/25/15 - 02/26/15: Ellensburg, WA Central Washington University

03/11/15: Bloomington, IN Indiana University

03/12/15: Hempstead, NY Hofstra University

03/25/15: Charlotte, NC Queens University of Charlotte

03/28/15: Phoenix, AZ Arizona State University

04/10/15 - 04/11/15: Philadelphia, PA Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

04/20/15: Bryn Mawr, PA Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

04/23/15: St. Petersburg, FL YWCA of Tampa Bay

10/9/15: Portland, OR Teaching with Purpose Conference

<http://bit.ly/1FkNoIZ>